

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 170530Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3134

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, SA, US

SUBJECT: MOVE OF SAUDI EDUCATIONAL OFFICE TO HOUSTON

REF: A. STATE 241336; B. STATE 132624; C. STATE 139049

SUMMARY: WE HAVE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF SAUDI EDUCATIONAL MISSION WITH AMBASSADOR NURI IBRAHIM. HE HAS RELUCTANTLY AGREED THAT DESIGNATING THE MISSION IN HOUSTON AS A CONSULATE MAY BE THE BEST SOLUTION. BEFORE FINAL AGREEMENT HE WOULD LIKE RECONFIRMATION THAT SOMEONE RESIDING ELSEWHERE IN THE US CANNOT BE ON THE STAFF OF THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON FOR PURPOSES OF DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. HE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. WE ARE GIVING HIM RELEVANT PORTIONS OF 2 FAM. PLEASE CONFIRM, IF TRUE, THAT A PERSON RESIDENT IN HOUSTON CANNOT BE ON STAFF OF EMBASSY. ALSO PLEASE ADVISE OF ANY ADDITIONAL POINTS RELATIVE TO PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES NOT CONTAINED IN 2 FAM WHICH THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES SHOULD BE MADE. END SUMMARY.

1. WE HAVE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF THE STATUS OF THE SAUDI EDUCATIONAL MISSION IN HOUSTON WITH AMBASSADOR NURI IBRAHIM. HE IS STILL TROUBLED BY THE IDEA OF OPENING A CONSULATE, EVEN IN NAME ONLY, MAINLY BECAUSE OF THE PRECEDENT IT MIGHT SET. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY IN EUROPE, HAVE BEEN AT THE SAG TO OPEN CONSULATES BUT THE SAG HAS BEEN RESISTING,

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LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF STAFFING THEM. A

NUMBER OF US CITIES ALSO WANT A SAUDI CONSULATE. WE POINTED OUT THAT THIS SHOULD CAUSE NO DIFFICULTY SINCE CONSULATES ARE FREQUENTLY OPENED ON THE BASIS OF RECIPROCITY AND ONLY THE US MAINTAINS A CONSULATE IN THE KINGDOM. AS FOR THE COMPETITION BETWEEN US CITIES, WE NOTED AGAIN THAT THE JURISDICTION OF THE CONSULATE COULD BE CONCURRENT WITH THAT OF THE EMBASSY, I.E., ALL OF THE US, AND THAT THERE WAS NO OBLIGATION FOR THE CONSULATE ACTUALLY TO PERFORM ANY OF THE NORMAL CONSULAR SERVICES. WE ADDED THAT AS FAR AS WE WERE AWARE THERE WAS NO NEED EVEN FOR THE CONSULATE TO POST A SIGN ANNOUNCING THAT IT WAS A CONSULATE.

2. IT APPEARS THAT ANOTHER REASON FOR AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM'S RELUCTANCE TO AGREE TO THE IDEA OF A CONSULATE IS THAT, ON THE BASIS OF A MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION OUTLINED IN PARA 3 REF C (I.E., THAT IF MANGUR WERE ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON HE COULD TRAVEL EXTENSIVELY TO TEXAS AND ELSEWHERE) A TELEGRAM WAS SENT FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STATING THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF MANGUR MOVED TO TEXAS AND WAS FORMALLY ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

3. ON THE BASIS OF PARA 2 REF B WE TOLD IBRAHIM THAT WE WERE SURE THIS INCORRECT. MANGUR MUST ACTUALLY RESIDE IN WASHINGTON TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES; IF HE TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN HOUSTON HE WILL BECOME INELIGIBLE.

4. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM FINALLY AGREED THAT THE OPENING OF A CONSULATE APPEARED TO BE THE BEST SOLUTION BUT ASKED THAT WE AGAIN OBTAIN CONFIRMATION THAT IF MANGUR TAKES UP RESIDENCE IN HOUSTON HE CAN NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED BY THE USG AS BEING A MEMBER OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. WE AGREED TO OBTAIN THIS CONFIRMATION.

5. AMBASSADOR IBRAHIM ALSO ASKED THAT WE PROVIDE HIM WITH A LISTING OF THE PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES WHICH WOULD BE GRANTED TO THE STAFF OF THE CONSULATE AND CONTRAST THESE WITH DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. WE WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GIVE HIM COPIES OF SECTIONS 230, 250 AND 270 OF 2FAM.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: A) CONFIRMATION THAT MANGUR CANNOT TAKE UP RESIDENCE IN HOUSTON AND REMAIN ATTACHED TO THE STAFF OF THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. B) ANY POINTS ADDITIONAL TO THOSE CONTAINED 2FAM WHICH THE DEPARTMENT WISHES US TO MAKE CONCERNING THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CONSULAR AND DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO CLEAR

THIS MATTER UP BY DEC 23 IF THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE A
RESPONSE BY THEN.
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